

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01952 151708Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----105769 151708Z /64

O 151708Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1363
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01952

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, PLO, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: STRENGTHENING LEBANESE GOVERNMENT PRESENCE
- IN THE SOUTH

1. POLMIN TOUCHED BASE WITH UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL
URQUHART MAY 15 TO SUGGEST THAT THE UN MAKE AN EFFORT TO
ARRANGE A LEBANESE GOVERNMENT PRESENCE WHENEVER THE UN
MAKES CONTACT WITH ARAFAT, AND THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERN-
MENT BE ASKED TO ASSIGN LIAISON OFFICERS TO EACH OF THE
UNIFIL CONTINGENT HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. URQUHART'S REACTION WAS THAT WE SHOULD GET "A FOR
EFFORT" IN PUTTING FORWARD THE SUGGESTIONS. HE SAID,
HOWEVER, THE UN EXPERIENCE WITH THE LEBANESE "NON-GOVERN-
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MENT" INCLINED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT BOTH SUGGESTIONS WERE
UNACHIEVABLE. HE DOUBTED THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE PERSONNEL OR MAKE THE
DECISIONS NECESSARY.

3. ON REFLECTION, HOWEVER, URQUHART SAID HE THOUGHT THAT
THE SUGGESTIONS OBVIOUSLY WERE POINTED IN THE RIGHT

DIRECTION AND IF THEY COULD BE CARRIED OUT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT STEPS FORWARD. HE PROMISED TO PUT THE SUGGESTIONS FORWARD AND HOPEFULLY TO SOUND OUT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT SUCH EFFORTS ARE CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS CIRCLE: THE LEBANESE CANNOT AND WILL NOT MOVE UNTIL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED, AND THE ISRAELIS DO NOT SEEM WILLING TO MOVE UNTIL LEBANESE AUTHORITY (AND UNIFIL) ARE FIRMLY IN PLACE. LEONARD

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